



CREATING CONNECTIONS

The 2007 Hike and Bike Trails Master Plan for Sugar Land





August 10, 2007

Joe Chesser, Inerim Parks and Recreation Director
City of Sugar Land
200 Matlage Way
Sugar Land, TX 77478

Reference: Draft Report, Sugar Land Hike and Bike Trails Master Plan

Dear Mr. Chesser:

Halff Associates Inc. is pleased to submit this draft Hike and Bike Trails Master Plan report for Sugar Land. The report seeks to capture the many observations and findings developed as part of the planning process, and to match those to the dreams and expectations of the citizens of Sugar Land. The plan’s recommendations encompass a variety of different trail types, seeking first and foremost to create a citywide system of continuous trails that link all parts of Sugar Land. The ultimate goal and dream of this plan is to truly “connect” all parts of Sugar Land.

As in any comprehensive analysis, this document contains many recommendations that are prioritized over time. Many of the actions in this plan are immediate in nature and can be developed as funding becomes available. Others can be developed in conjunction with ongoing development in Sugar Land. Finally, some are long term actions that may not be funded for some time, but that are shown to ensure that they remain present in the city’s planning for the future and as new funding sources become available.

Ultimately, this plan stresses what all citizens of Sugar Land already know and care about - that quality of life is one of the key reasons to live in Sugar Land. As much as anything else, trails can transform Sugar Land and continue to make it one of the best places to live in the United States.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to have worked with you, your staff, and the citizens of Sugar Land, and welcome any comments regarding this draft that you may have.

Sincerely,

Halff Associates, Inc.

Jim Carrillo, A.S.L.A., A.I.C.P.
Vice President, Director of Planning



The 2007 Citywide Trails Master Plan was developed by the City of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation Department with the technical assistance and design help of Halff Associates. A special thanks goes to the many residents, landowners, business owners, and community leaders for their insight and support throughout the duration of this study.



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City of Sugar Land Staff

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Texas Department of Transportation

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Houston-Galveston Area Council

Dan Raine, A.I.C.P. - H-GAC Pedestrian-Bicyclist Coordinator



“Trails not only connect us with each other, they connect us with ourselves...Communities with no place to daydream are communities without imagination”

DAVID BURWELL, President of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, 2001

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. INTRODUCTION

- Why Plan for Hike and Bike Trails in Sugar Land
- Purpose of the Citywide Trails Master Plan
- Key Guiding Principles and Goals of the Plan
- Trail Planning Methodology
- Previous Trail Recommendations – The Path to This Master Plan
- Specific Goals of The Master Plan
- Planning by Sectors

B. SUGAR LAND 2007

- The Demographic Context of Sugar Land
- Major Citywide Destinations and Attractors
- Coordination with Regional Efforts
- Existing Trails in and near Sugar Land in 2007

C. CITIZEN INPUT REGARDING TRAILS

- Public Entities
- Citizen Task Force
- Neighborhood Associations
- Community Wide Citizen Input
- Input for Key Stakeholder Entities

D. TRAIL DESIGN STANDARDS FOR SUGAR LAND

- Trail Types for Sugar Land
- Trail Design Standards
- Typical Trail Features
- Typical Trail Type Costs
- Target Level of Service for Trails in Sugar Land

E. TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

- Identification and Evaluation of Citywide Opportunities
 - North
 - Central East
 - Central West
 - South East
 - South West

F. TRAIL CORRIDOR ANALYSIS AND PRIORITIZATION

- Citywide Trail Recommendations for Sugar Land
- Trail Corridor Prioritization
- Key Trail Corridors
- Recommended Trail Priorities
- Summary of Trail Corridor Costs
- Major Highway or Barrier Crossings

G. THE CREATION OF A CITYWIDE TRAIL SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Trail Implementation Strategies
- Funding Sources
- Maintenance of Trail Corridors
- Implementation Timeframe
- Trail Ordinances and Guidelines

H. APPENDIX

- Citizen Input Comments
- LID Meeting Minutes
- Trail Ordinance Sample Language
- Bibliography of Key Useful Reference Sources
- Sugar Land Town Center Pedestrian Study (H-GAC)





“Greenways are about connections: connections between people and the land, between public parks, natural areas, historic sites, and other open spaces, between conservation and economic development, and between environmental protection and our quality of life.”

CHUCK FLINK & ROBERT SEARNS, Greenways, 1993

